

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LUSAKA 00494 271650Z

43

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2895

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUSAKA 0494

EO 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR ZB RH US ZA

SUBJECT: CHONA ON SOUTHERN AFRICA

1. SUMMARY. HAVING SEVERAL TIMES OVER PAST TEN DAYS
EXCUSED DELAYS ON MY REQUEST TO SEE PRESIDENT KAUNDA TO
DELIVER MESSAGE IN STATE'S 38733, MARK CHONA
FINALLY FIXED AN APPOINTMENT AT STATE HOUSE FOR LATE
MORNING FEB 27. MEETING TURNED OUT TO BE WITH CHONA AND
HIS NEW ASSISTANT, CHIBANDA, NOT KAUNDA. DISCUSSION DEALT
WITH NEW AND CHANGING SITUATION IN SOUTHERN AFRICA. CHONA
RENEWED URGING THAT US ASSUME RESPONSIBLE LEADERSHIP ROLE
AS SPOKESMAN FOR WEST IN RHODESIA AND ALSO NAMIBIA.
END SUMMARY.

2. RHODESIA. CHONA REITERATED HIS URGENT PLEA THAT US
RAISE ITS VOICE TO TELL IAN SMITH THAT IT IS "HIGH
NOON" AND HIS LAST CHANCE TO CHOOSE ONE OF THREE
AVAILABLE OPTIONS WHEREIN HE CAN: (A) STEP DOWN AND
TURN THE COUNTRY BACK TO THE BRITISH; (B) NEGOTIATE
MAJORITY RULE WITH NKOMO NOW; OR (C) FACE A BLOODBATH
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PAGE 02 LUSAKA 00494 271650Z

IN TRYING BUT NOT SUCCEEDING TO RESIST A GUERRILLA

TAKEOVER. CHONA SAID WORLD AT LARGE, INCLUDING NEUTRAL COUNTRIES WHO HAVE HELPED ZAMBIA MILITARILY SUCH AS YUGOSLAVIA, SEE USG AS HOLDING KEY TO A PEACEFUL NEGOTIATION IN RHODESIA. US MUST RISE TO THE OCCASION IF THE WHITE STAKE IN RHODESIA IS TO BE PRESERVED. CHONA URGED AMERICA TO SPEAK DIRECTLY TO RHODESIAN MILITARY LEADERS AND WHITE SETTLERS TO COME TO THEIR SENSES OR ELSE FACE THE SAME FATE AS WHITE SETTLERS IN MOZAMBIQUE AND ANGOLA WHO WERE OBLIGED TO LEAVE ALL THEIR POSSESSIONS AND FLEE FOR THEIR LIVES. HE PREDICTED PANIC WOULD ALSO STRIKE IN RHODESIA UNLESS WHITES MADE TO REALIZE BY AN AUTHORITATIVE VOICE SUCH AS THE US THAT NEGOTIATION OF MAJORITY RULE IS ONLY WAY TO SECURE THEIR FUTURE. COMMENT. LORD GREENHILL MISSION NOT EVEN MENTIONED AND IT OBVIOUS CHONA HAD LITTLE HOPE IT COULD SUCCEED WITHOUT ASSIST FROM US.

3. CHONA SAID NEW RHODESIAN MINISTER OF INFORMATION BROOMBERG HAD SURPRISED HIM WITH A DIRECT PHONE CALL FROM SALISBURY THE OTHER DAY PLEADING FOR TIME FOR WHITE ELECTORATE TO BECOME CONVINCED. CHONA FLATLY TOLD HIM THERE WOULD BE NO MORE WHITE ELECTORATE UNLESS THEY OPTED FOR NEGOTIATION. HE TOLD BROOMBERG TO CITE ZAMBIA TO RHODESIAN PUBLIC AS

WORKING EXAMPLE OF MULTI-RACIALISM WHERE WHITE FARMERS ENJOYING LIBERTY AND MAKING GOOD LIVING UNDER BLACK GOVERNMENT.

4. NAMIBIA. CHONA MAINTAINED US ALSO HAD A SPECIAL ROLE TO PLAY IN CONVINCING SOUTH AFRICANS THAT CONSTITUTIONAL CONFERENCE WHICH COULD RUN 2-3 YEARS WAS SIMPLY NOT GOOD ENOUGH. INSISOSD SAG MUST HOLD GENERAL ELECTIONS OR REFERENDUM IN 1976 UNDER INTERNATIONAL SUPERVISION SO THAT CONSTITUTIONAL CONFERENCE COULD BE HELD AND INDEPENDENT GOVERNMENT FORMED. SWAPO MUST BE ALLOWED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE ELECTION OR REFERENDUM. CHONA SAID NATURE OF SUPERVISION NOT IMPORTANT, BE IT FROM UN, OAU, OR A RANDOM SELECTION OF WILLING AND ABLE FOREIGN COUNTRIES. IF SOUTH AFRICA CONTINUES TO DELAY, SITUATION WILL ONLY BUILD UP TO MORE PANIC FOR WHITES AS IT DID IN ANGOLA AND MOZAMBIQUE. ONLY HUMAN SUFFERING, CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 LUSAKA 00494 271650Z

NOT ASSURED FUTURE, WILL FOLLOW. CHONA URGED USG TO CONSORT WITH WEST GERMANY IN HELPING GERMAN SPEAKING SETTLERS IN NAMIBIA.

5. ANGOLA. CHONA SAID ZAMBIA HAD DELIBERATELY NOT RPT NOT RECOGNIZED MPLA AND WANTED THAT FACT TO BE WIDELY BROADCAST AND UNDERSTOOD. HE SAID ZAMBIAN SHORT-TERM RELATIONS WITH MPLA REGIME COULD PROCEED ON AN AD HOC

BASIS DEPENDING ON CIRCUMSTANCES. THERE WOULD BE NO SOLICITATION OR HASTE ON ZAMBIA'S PART. ALL ZAMBIA SEEKS IS PEACE, SECURITY AND UNITY FOR ANGOLA. DOES NOT OBJECT TO MPLA BUT TO FOREIGN INTERVENTION. CHONA CONFIRMED THAT WITHDRAWAL OF CUBANS FROM ANGOLA WOULD BE AMONG ESSENTIAL CONDITIONS IN ANY FUTURE CONSIDERATION OF RECOGNITION. ZAMBIA IS AWARE MPLA'S NETO HAD THROWN OUT LINES TO ZAIRE BUT IT HAS NOT YET THROWN OUT ANY TO ZAMBIA. WHEN AND IF NETO DID, ZAMBIA WOULD CONSIDER WHAT MPLA HAD TO SAY.

6. AS FOR UNITA'S SAVIMBI, CHONA CLAIMED NOT TO KNOW WHAT HIS CURRENT MOTIVES ARE; WHETHER INDEED HE INTENDS TO CARRY OUT GUERRILLA OPERATIONS. IN THAT EVENT ZAMBIA WOULD NOT ASSIST SAVIMBI NOR WOULD IT PROVIDE BASES OR SANCTURARY FOR SUCH OPERATIONS, BUT IT WOULD GIVE SHELTER TO ANGOLAN REFUGEES.

7. CHONA THOUGHT MPLA'S RECENT DRIVE FOR NATIONAL CONSCRIPTION MIGHT BE AN INDICATOR THAT MPLA WANTS TO TRAIN AN ARMY TO TAKE OVER FROM THE CUBANS AND SOVIETS. IN IRONICAL IF NOT CONTRADICTORY LINE, CHONA SAID CUBANS CAN BE HELPFUL IN LIBERATING SOUTHERN AFRICA. "THAT IS WHY WE CHOSE NOT TO PROVOKE THEM" I SUGGESTED THIS SOMEWHAT AMBIGUOUS STAND WHICH ZAMBIAN PRESS HAD DABBLED AT AND MIGHT NOT BE GENERALLY UNDERSTOOD OR APPRECIATED. WILKOWSKI

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